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Citrus Talks-The Citrus Industry

Charles C. Chapman

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CITRUS TALKS

"THE CITRUS INDUSTRY"

The Citrus Industry

While one of the smallest in area
of ~~any~~ the many countries of
great State of California. Orange
supports a more diversified
farming, ^{industry} than any other. Here are
greatest celery fields of the West.
Beans & ^{Sugar} Beets are grown by the thousands
of acres. All of the staple cereals
are grown here. Almost any variety
of deciduous fruits flourish here
~~and~~ do well ~~here~~ & many semi-tropical
fruits flourish here. The chiefest of
her products, however, that to which
her people give greatest attention
~~that~~ which contributes most to her
revenue is the orange.

The Orange Industry 2

Orange Co., as the name implies,
~~seems~~ ~~the~~ gives splendid evidence
of being the ideal section for the
culture of the orange. It is as
highly developed here as in any other part
of the world. Indeed ~~we~~ I do not
hesitate to say that the orange as
grown here has no equal. This is
demonstrated by the fact that foreign
firms in this country have bought the highest
prices in the most discriminating market
of the country for any oranges grown
in the world.

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The soil & Climate of Orange County
are splendidly adapted to the culture
of the orange. Indeed the Queen has
been lavish in bestowing upon
all Southern California, & upon Orange
County in particular, rare natural
advantages, perhaps greater than the
enjoyed by any other section over which the flag flies.
The magnificent mountain ranges not only
form picturesque scenery & giant bulwarks
to guard the fertile valleys, but are our great
natural reservoirs. Our coast is washed by
the boundless Pacific. Our climate is fine.
In fact it is not too much to say that
as to fertility of the soil, the charming climate
& the scenery with its grandeur & beauty,
is not surpassed the world around.

Not only is climate & soil, ^{of this country -} adapted to the
culture of the orange but irrigating water
is in abundance & rain as plentiful
as in any other section of Southern California.
The temperature does not go as high ^{in summer as at Los Angeles}
here as in the more inland sections
~~nor during the winter as low~~ The
extremes are ^{not} experienced here & therefore
oranges are frequently held here
upon the trees for many months after they
are fully matured without serious
detriment to their texture, color or
flavor.

The splendid ^{equipment} ~~facilities~~ for packing oranges ^{now} found
in ^{our} ~~some~~ packing houses are the result of
a very considerable ~~to~~ evolution in the
orange industry. Ingenious ^{men have} ~~men have~~ ^{invented} ~~invented~~
machines as ^{well} as ^{discovers} ~~discovers~~ ^{new} ~~new~~
~~have found~~ ^{general} ~~general~~ ^{supplied} ~~some~~
improved methods for doing ^{work in} ~~almost~~ ~~the~~
every branch department, from [&] ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
the fruit from the tree to putting it
on the market.

The methods of handling ~~the~~ oranges
were very crude & simple at first.
There was no uniformity ^{if packages} ~~of the~~ ^{in general} ~~box~~, or
^{in fact} ~~any~~ ^{uniform} ~~general~~ ^{method} ~~adopted~~ by the
^{Speckers} ~~early~~ ^{of growers} ~~packers~~. The only thought occurring
in the mind of the shipper was to get the fruit
in some sort of package in order to
ship to the consumer. ^(over) # Soon however

enterprising shippers began to realize
that if the fruit was uniformly sized
it would pack more evenly ~~therefore~~
be more attractive. Some very simple
^{inexpensive} machinery for doing this was invented

Perhaps the first machine ^{for sizing} of any pretensions
was the one known as the California grader.
This was a ^{simple} ~~simple~~ grader about ten feet
long & worked by fork power. From time
to time this was lengthened until some
of them were made from twenty to thirty
feet long, delivering fruit to bins
arranged on either side & extending
five to ten feet longer.

Other ^{more complicated with greater capacity & accuracy} sizes have been invented.
~~more~~ ~~than~~ the same two or three
to quite extensive factories in

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Southern California which ~~for~~ make
packing house equipment & for
doing practically all work in the
handling of the orange. ^{the new line} They make
washers for ~~washing~~, driers, polishers,
graders, sizers & wrapping machines
of several designs & at varying prices.

Progress has been made along all
lines of the business. A uniform package
has been adopted for both the orange & the
lemon. These are embellished with lettering &
~~color~~ & designs ~~in color~~ printed in color on
slats & ends. Shippers have introduced
brands & most shippers use elaborate
& beautifully colored lithographic labels
of these on end of ~~orange~~ ^{the} box. The
orange wrappers have also been changed
from the coarse brown paper to fine

silk tissues, upon which richly colored designs or monograms are printed. Some of the most enterprising shippers use two color prints on their wrappers. ~~Some~~ Some of ~~the~~ who cater to the best Eastern trade use beautifully laced & printed silk curtains for the boxes.

Thus we have now going from all our packing houses ^{uniform} ~~fine~~ & attractive packages. One shipper in Orange County has even tags every one of a certain brand with a little green & gold tag. A specially prepared machine for putting these on is in use.

In some packing houses the equipment is very elaborate & expensive, costing many thousands of dollars, & with capacity of ten cars per day.

This first orange trees put out in Orange County ~~and~~ as in Los Angeles + Riverside Counties were seedlings, the present popular varieties being unknown here. Much time was required

for these to come into bearing, as the seedling is slower in this regard than the

grafted varieties. However, the time came when there were a few oranges ready for the market.

The modern packing houses with their splendid equipment were of course unknown in that early day, ~~to~~ nevertheless the fruit was after a fashion packed & shipped. It found a ready market & at such splendid prices that the culture

of the orange became an attraction
& established industry ^{several sections} in ~~the~~
of the county.

Any naturally an occupation
which is so attractive as the citrus
culture ^{soon} attracted ^{to it} enterprising men
Some of these realized that other
varieties than the seedling ^{might} ~~would~~
prove more profitable, & immediately
^{ships were taken} ~~set about~~ to secure varieties adapted
to this climate. The result in a
few years was the introduction of
number of varieties which have
borne production & profitable &
well adapted to ~~the~~ our soil & climate.

The Washington Navel, now the
popular California orange & the

H C C

Chief variety grown here, was introduced
in 1880.

The first two trees were put
out & developed at Riverside. From the
the wash orchards of Washington Navel in Southern
California have come, The original

trees are still living & are objects of
interest to the people & visitors of Riverside.

Some years ago one of these was removed
from its original home to the grounds of
Glenmont Hotel Inn, & re-set with great

pomp & ceremony on the occasion of a
visit of President Roosevelt, the distinguished
^{visitor} taking part in the work of transplanting.

Among ~~other~~ ^{the} standard varieties of
oranges grown in this county besides the
Washington Navel are the Medesman

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Sweets, St Michael, Malta & Ruby, blind
Satsuma & the Valencia Late.

From 1886 to 1890 quite a run was made
by the Mediterranean Sweets & many thousand
trees were put out. It was thought that

this variety would supply the ~~early~~ late
Spring ~~to~~ demand, after the ^{season of the} Washington
Novel had passed. It has proved
a tender orange & not altogether satisfactory.

One reason ~~for~~ ~~that~~ for this variety
not being more in favor, though of late
years it has very generally become
popular, was the introduction of
an orange that more completely filled
the requirements of a late orange.
This is the Valencia Late, which is

as it has been developed here. Be
many respects, is the best orange grown
in the world. For more than a dozen
years it has made the record for
prices received for California oranges.
It has many excellent qualities which
make it a most desirable & profitable
orange of ~~both~~ for grower ^{handlers} & consumer.
It is the best keeper on or off the tree & therefore
a splendid shipping orange for the autumn.
It has been the most popular orange ^{with growers}
for ~~six~~ or ~~seven~~ ^{years} grown in California,
especially in Orange County which
seems to be able to produce this splendid
variety more perfectly than any other
section of the State.

During these early days Chinamen were
generally employed to do the packing. The fruit
was cut from the trees & piled up on the
ground or in some shed & the

Chinamen sat upon the ground or
floor & made ^{as they} selection from the pile
& put them in the box, sometimes
wrapping them with the ordinary
coarse brown paper ^{such as} usually found
in the grocery stores of that day.